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ピース オブ ケイク

Piece of Cake

5

ジョージ朝倉

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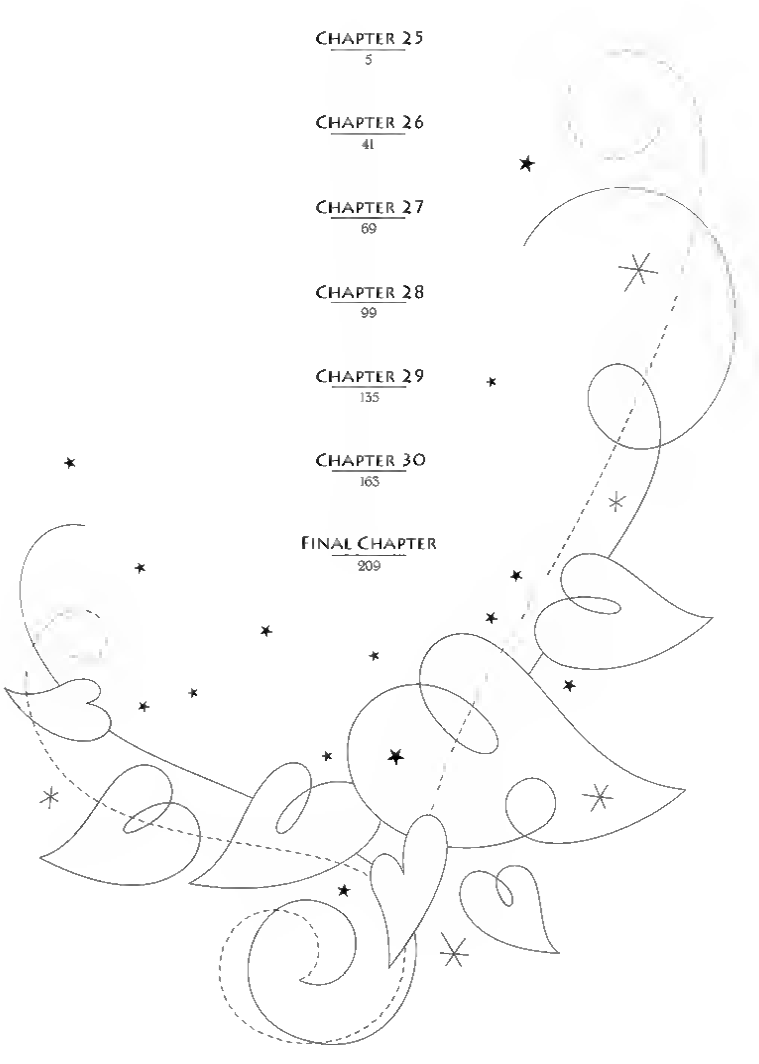


SHINO UMEMIYA

works at a video rental store and as the costumer for a theatre troupe.

S T O R Y

Her relationship with Kyoushirou has become stable, and she's been spending happy days. On the other hand, her anxiety is growing over the existence of Naomi Shibuya, a writer who is believed to be Akari. One day, Kyoushirou stood her up and stayed out all night...

CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

KAWATANI

A part timer at the video rental shop. He kissed Shino once when he was drunk.

CHIBA

The leader of "Mebachi Gri Ichiba" the theatre troupe that Shino works for.

MASAKI

Shino's ex. He's the somewhat overbearing, bigmouth type.

AKARI NARITA/NAOMI SHIBUYA

Kyoushirou's former lover who suddenly disappeared. She had falsified everything, including her name, age, and phone number.

KYOUSHIROU SUGAWARA

The manager of the video rental shop. Commonly called "Hageten."

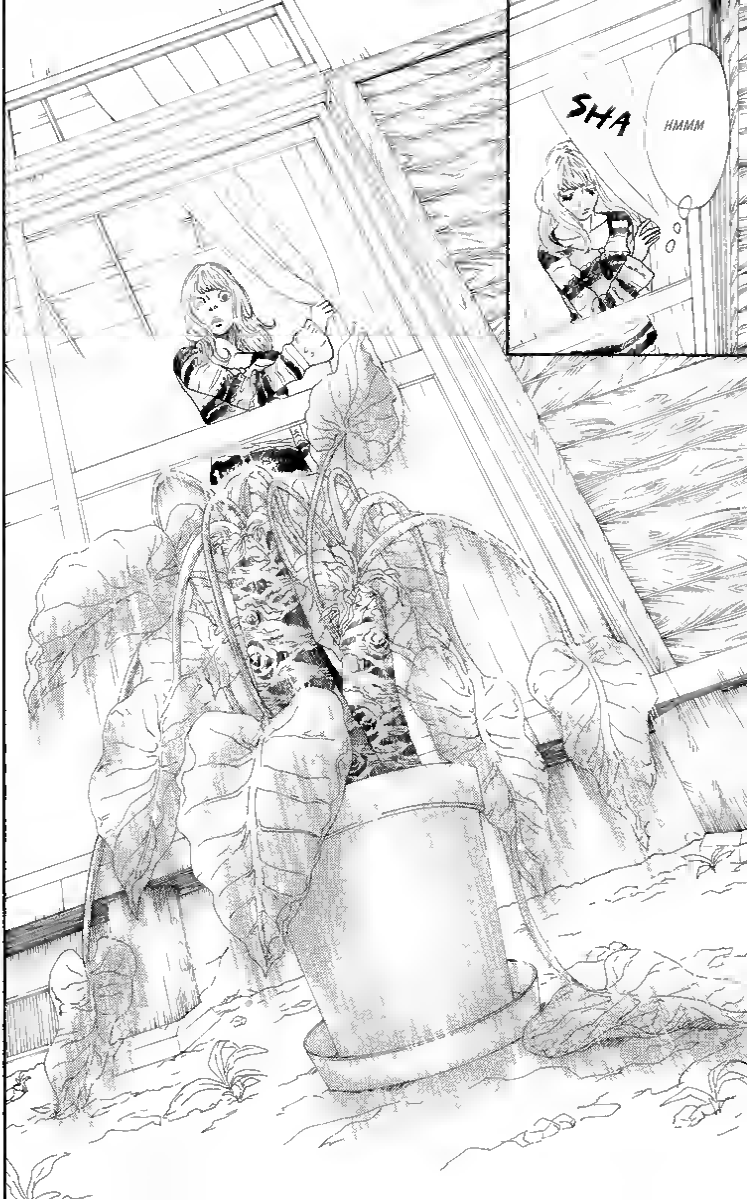
HERE.
TAKE THIS TO YOUR FRIEND.
I'LL HAVE HIM GET WELL

CHAPTER 25

NICE DAY, ISN'T IT?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK I'LL QUIT GOING...
SHINO-CHAN, LET'S GO ON A PICNIC! WITH THESE RICE BALLS!
AHAHA
WE'LL DO THAT NEXT TIME!
YOU PROMISED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
SO YOU SHOULD GO—

...ALL RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I HAVE TO GO TO "MEBACHI GIRL" REHEARSAL ANYWAY.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY DAY OFF...
I'VE GOTTA DROP BY HEAD-QUARTERS TOO...
.....
SUSPICIOUS.

Panicky
AND HE'S EVEN SUFFERING FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE!
YOU SEE, HIS INJURIES FROM THE ACCIDENT ARE PRETTY SERIOUS,
UM, TANAKA CAME TO TOKYO, TOO...
A friend from Kyo-chan's hometown for whom he cuts back on sleep to go visit.
"Tana-ka-kun."
IT'S LIKE HE'S GOING TO DIE..
IF I LEAVE HIM ALONE..
BUT HE HAS NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM OTHER THAN ME
...TO BE HONEST, I DON'T WANT TO GO,
BUT HE'S SO SUSPICIOUS THAT HE COULD BE "INNOCENT"...
"TANAKA" IS SO SUSPICIOUS!!
GAAA-AHH!!!
AND DON'T BREATHE A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE YET
KANDA WILL BE THE NEXT MANAGER OF THE CURRENT SHOP.
SINCE I'M GONNA WORK THE NEW SHOP THAT'S OPENING NEXT YEAR, I'M FRIGGIN' BUSY
Actually, he seems really busy with work.
...I WONDER..
MAYBE I'M WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT BOOK
THAT'S WHY I ENDED UP SUSPECTING HIM..


SHA
HMMM

SORRY!!!
I LEFT YOU OUTSIDE AND TOTALLY FORGOT!
!!!
Shining
You don't look well Get some sunlight baby
yesterday morning
WHYYY WHY.
HUH?
I QUIT MY JOB.
I HAVEN'T TOLD NANAKO YET THOUGH.
I WAS WONDERING WHY HE'S ALWAYS IN THE OFFICE..
THE JAPANESE WORK TOO HARD!

OH, ANTONIO'S GONE BACK?
WEL-COME BACK
HUFF HUFF
BOW
BOW
YOU'VE GOTTA GO BACK TO THE SOBA SHOP!
HEY, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF RE-HEAR-SAL!
...UH'H, I WANTED TO TALK TO HANAKO ABOUT KYOU-CHAN...
It'd be hard to call her now
OF COURSE HE HAS... OTHERWISE HE'D GET KILLED BY NINJIKO!
AHAHAHA
Ugh, but Nanako is really blunt...
Plus she doesn't think very highly of Kyou-chan...
BREAK UP!
GUIL-TY!!
DEFIN-ITELY GUILTY!!
She got a haircut
TEN-CHAN TENDS TO SAY
IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS DEPENDING ON HIS MOOD
PLUS HE'D TELL EVERY-ONE
WHAT'S THAT?
FROM MY BRIGHT AND HEALTHY SKIN, YOU CAN TELL THAT I GOT A BOYFRIEND?!
Ho ho ho

SHINO, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE DINNER WITH US, RIGHT?
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU BETTER GO HOME AND SEW THE COSTUMES OR YOU WON'T FINISH THEM IN TIME!
YEP!
I KNOW THAT, BUT
PLOD
PLOD
.....
...HELLO?
PROBABLY ISN'T BACK YET...
KYO -CHAN...
HELLO? IT'S UZAKI FROM MATSUKATA REAL ESTATE—
RING RING
I DON'T LIKE
BEING ALL ALONE..

How are things going? Have you found an apartment yet?
Uh,
Not yet...
Oh that's great! We've got some really good articles to recommend you!
Okay...
If you'd like please visit us again with your husband!
Um..
Yes?
My plant.
What?
No...
It's nothing...
...
To Shino-chan:
More than a year and a half has passed since I gave you an eviction notice. Please move out.
Landlord Yamashiro

WHAT THE HELL...
DARN IT
Pad
SIGN: TO SUGAWARA SAN:
To Sugawara-san:
More than a year and a half has passed since I gave you an invitation notice. Please leave out.
Landlord Yamashiro
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM
EVEN THOUGH I STILL HAVE ALL THESE THINGS ON MY MIND
I MEAN, THE ONE WHO'S PUTTING IT ON HOLD WITH THE REASON THAT HE'S BUSY...
IS KYO-CHAN
KCR
-CHAN

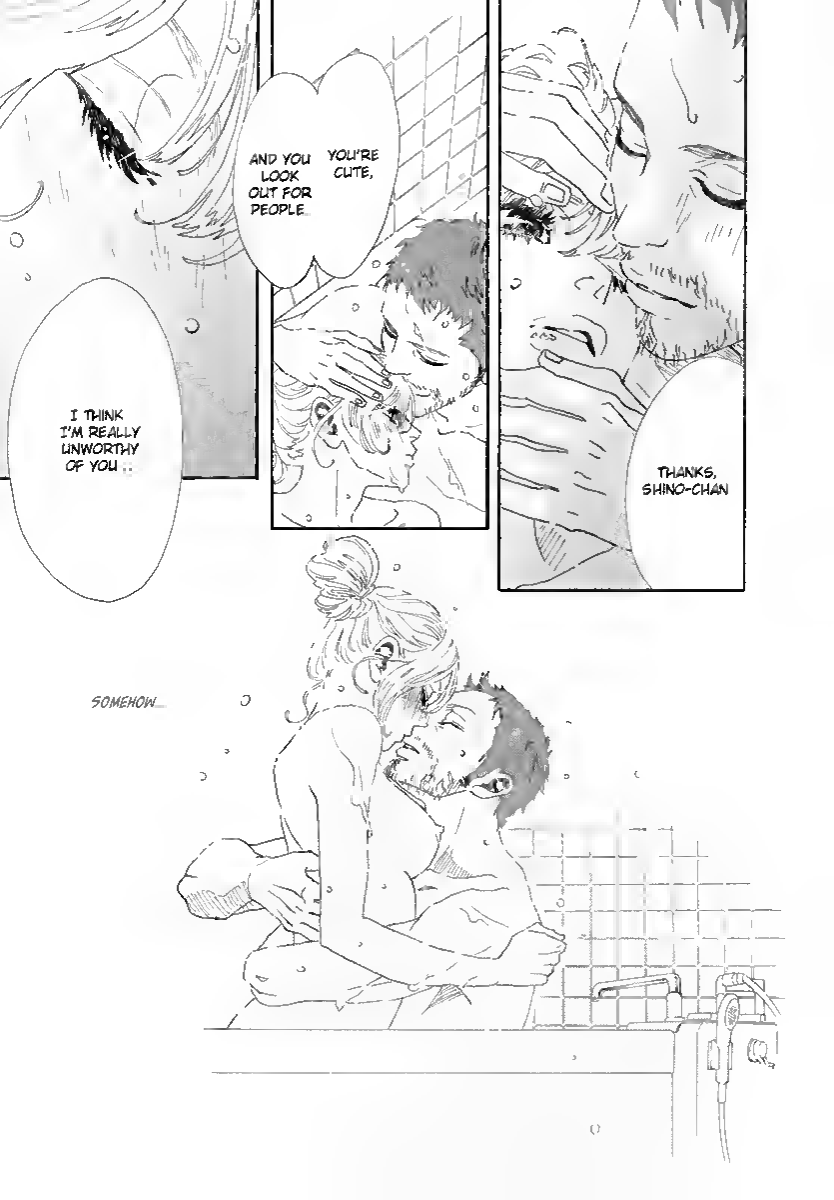
ガラッ
SFX RATTLE
ARE YOU STILL BLOOMING ?
WHY_
YOUR STRONG ODOR JUST TICKS ME OFF.

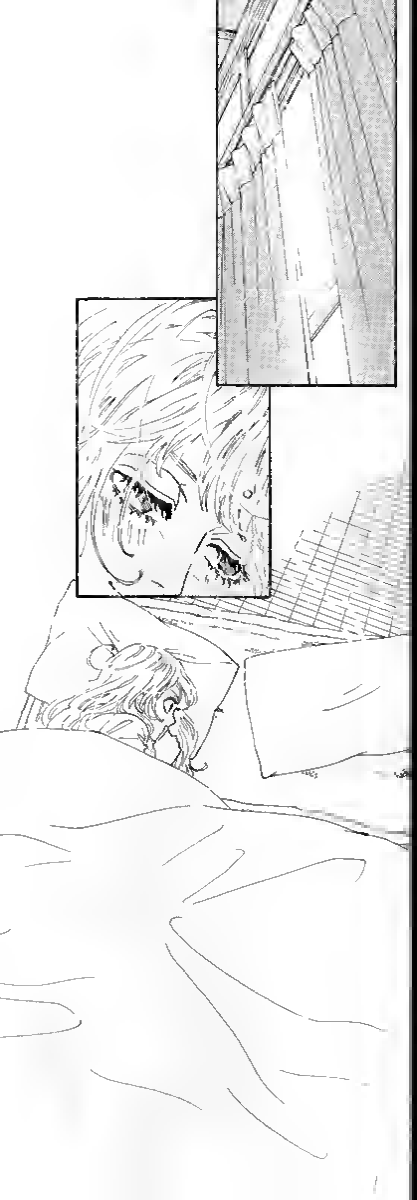
I WANT
TO TALK WITH SOMEONE
Pi
Pi
Pi
WITH SOMEONE
WHO'LL TELL ME...
Pi
Pi
CONACTS
THAT KYO-CHAN IS DEFINITELY "INNOCENT"...
Pi
Pi
Pi
Pi
ごっほごほっ
SFX COUGH COUGH
BACK!
CLATTER
I'VE GOT
SO FEW FRIENDS..

SFX: KEE-CHACK
カリ
チャ!!
I—
COUGH
unreliable middle aged man...
I FELL ASLEEP
WELCOME BACK
ALMOST DROWNED
OH, YOU WERE HERE AFTER ALL...
SHINO-CHAN, SHINO-CHAN~
HE STARTED TAKING A BATH BEFORE I CAME HOME
BUT
LET'S BATHE TOGETHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE OUR SEX FREQUENCY HAS DROPPED, AT LEAST...
...WELL...
CLATTER
OOPS
SHINO -CHAN-
OH, OKAY
GET ME SOME SOAP, WILL YA?
...HIS PHONE...
IF HE'S JUST CARELESSLY LEAVING IT LYING AROUND LIKE THIS...
AS I THOUGHT,
IS HE ACTUALLY "INNOCENT"?

...TANAKA-KUN".
WAS HE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
HE'S TAKEN A TURN FOR THE BETTER...
OH,
YOUR RICE BALLS WERE GREAT!
...KYO-CHAN, YOU ATE THEM?
—UM, WELL, I JUST ASKED HIM AND GOT ONE...
TANAKA SAID THEY WERE DELICIOUS TOO!
... YEAH? ALL RIGHT THEN.
THAT'S GOOD.
!


I THINK I'M REALLY UNWORTHY OF YOU..
AND YOU LOOK OUT FOR PEOPLE..
YOU'RE CUTE,
THANKS, SHINO-CHAN
SOMEHOW...



WHEN HE'S BEFORE MY EYES, FLIRTING WITH ME LIKE THIS...

I FEEL LIKE THIS MAN MUST ABSOLUTELY BE INNOCENT.

To Shino-chan
I got a call from headquarters, so I'll go ahead.
—END—
JEEZ...
I KNOW ONCE I START TO CARE ABOUT IT, I'LL FALL INTO AN ENDLESS LOOP BUT STILL

—THIS NAUSEATING SCENT... IT MAKES ME SICK
TRIP
TRIP
DVD Vi.

HEY..
MY PHONE NUMBER'S CHANGED.
I UPDATED IT IN YOUR PHONE
!
TRIP
TRIP
Pi
Pi
Pi
I BET YOU WON'T CALL ME ANYWAY
.....

YOU KNOW, IF YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME...
WELL..
HUH? DOES THAT MEAN I CAN CALL YOU?
YOU DON'T CALL ME EITHER, YOU KNOW.

RING RING
I'LL CALL YOU
GOT IT
HELLO?
I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW
TRIP
ARE YOU DOING WELL WITH SUGAWARA-KUN?
I'M HANGING UP
YOU KNOW HIS EX'S BOOK?
I ASSUMED HE ALREADY KNEW ABOUT IT...
SO I TEASED HIM, SAYING "WOW, IT'S JUST LIKE A MOVIE!"
IS THAT YOU, YOU JERK?!
SORRY!
Ahaha
DID I SAY SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE?
HE ACTUALLY LOOKED KINDA STARTLED...
HEY...
.....

IF YOU READ AN AFTERWARD LIKE THAT,
DO YOU THINK THAT...
YOU'D FALL FOR HER?
I MEAN, SHE LEFT HIM ON HER OWN, RIGHT?
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND HER TRUE INTENTIONS.
NOT SURE..

IF I WERE HIM, I'D PICK SHINO-CHAN.
YEAH?
I DO MEAN IT THOUGH
.....
YOU SAY SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS...
.....
THANK YOU
THANKS

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S TRUE. TRUST ME
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT
TRIP
HM
JEEZ
I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF

I HAVE TO...
ASK KYO-CHAN
IT WOULD BE GOOD
IF KYO-CHAN FEELS THAT WAY
HOW DID HE FEEL AFTER READING THAT BOOK?
I WANT TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT IT
A TALK THAT I NEED TO HAVE WITH HIM...
HMM...

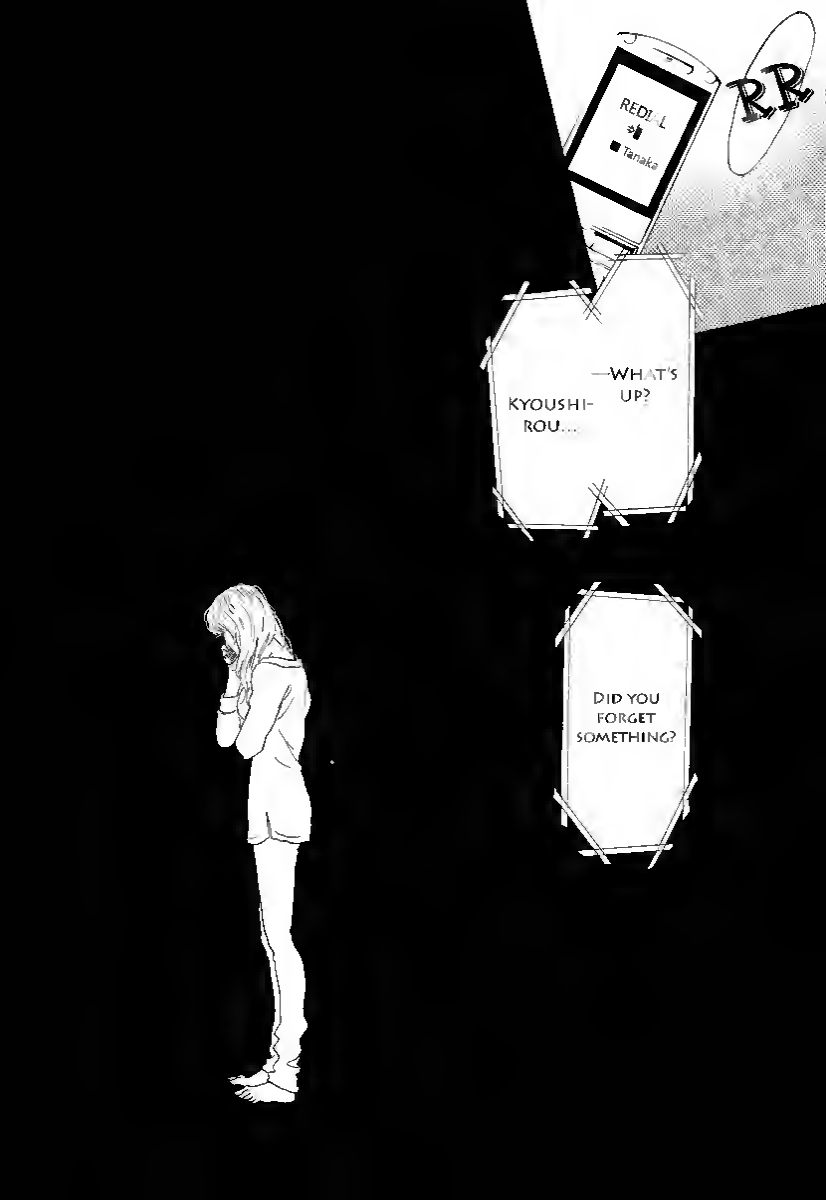
To Shino-chan
I'm going for a drink with some co-workers, so I don't need dinner Sorry!!
—END—

I'll drink, t...
.....

KER-CHAK

KYO-CHAAAAN
OH,
IT'S OK, DON'T GET UP
Hmm
I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER, AND THEN I'LL COME TO BED TOO.
AWW, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING IT ROUGH ..
Poor him
OKAY
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT TO THE BATH
AGAIN...
ZAAAA

I NEED A BIT MORE PROOF OF "INNOCENCE"
BEFORE I TALK TO HIM...
I WANT IT... I NEED IT
ZAHAM
Pi
Pi
Pi
REDIAL
Tanaka
RRRR
RRRR
"23:52", "TANAKA"...
THAT'S AROUND THE TIME I GOT HIS "NO NEED FOR DINNER" MESSAGE...
CALL HISTORY
Tanaka 0:30
Tanaka 23:52
TRIP Asia branch 18:12
TRIP Chiyo branch 18:06
TRIP Asia branch 18:02


REDIAL
Tanaka
R.R.
—WHAT'S UP?
KYOUSHI-ROU...
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

—Hello?
HANG UP

ガラ
RATTLE
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU WANNA GET IN—
WHACK
ガ

OUCH...
...IDIOT!

YOU
IDIOOOOT...